



# EXPLORING THORIKOS

**Edited by**  
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**Ghent University**  
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Belgische School te Athene - École belge d'Athènes - Βελγική Σχολή Αθηνών





Thorikos occupies the coastal northeast of the Lavrion area of Attica, Greece. The ancient town comprised the double-peaked Velatouri hill, which has seen human activity since the Final Neolithic period and been the focus of archaeological research for more than 50 years. This timely publication serves as a guide to ancient Thorikos, a presentation of ongoing work and a preview of new undertakings. Growing out of a Belgian initiative in the 1960s, the Thorikos Project is today an international program with a wide range of contexts and assemblages under study. Here, members of the international team present themes of current interest and aspects of recent work in a multi-authored collection of texts intended for the general public as well as for specialists.



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Cover illustrations: (front): The double-peaked Velatouri hill seen from the west; the island of Makronisos in the background, 1974 (photo: Thorikos archive). (back): Drawing architecture in the field, West Necropolis 2014 (photo: T. Pieters). The site map, prepared by C. Stal, A. Deruyck, A. De Wulf and R.F. Docter, is to be found on pages 6-7.

Illustration on pages 5, 12, 16, 18, 20, 34, 52, 57, 69, 71 and 72: Ceramic pomegranate, 735-720 BC (TC65.598, Thorikos archive/KVG).

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*Orthophotograph of the Industrial Quarter  
(Photo: CS)*





# Thorikos - Velatouri

Coordinates in Greek National Grid (GGRS87, EPSG:2100)  
 Authors: Cornelis Stal, Arne Deruyck, Alain De Wulf, Roald Docter  
 Compilation of various data sources (2018)

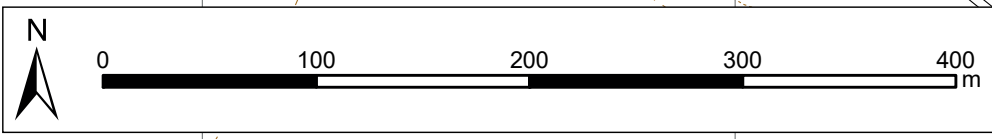
## Legend

- 19th century furnaces
- Cistern
- ▲ Geodetic point
- ✕ Mine
- Mine shaft
- ◆ Mycenaean tomb
- ▣ Tower
- Washery
- Reference poles
- Fortification wall
- Historic road
- Modern road
- ◆ Ridge
- ◆ Terrace
- Zones

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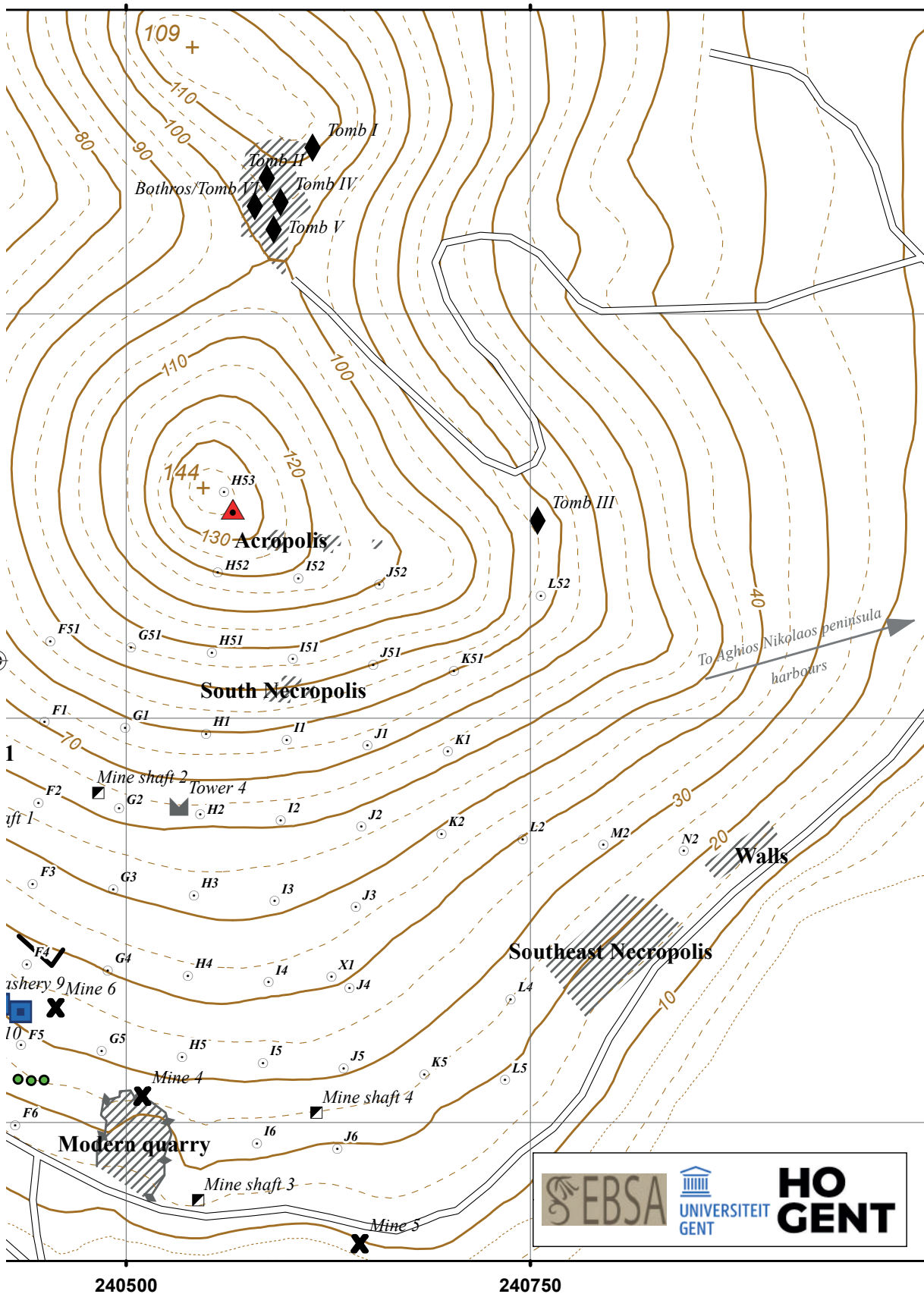
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## Foreword

This publication has been conceived as a comprehensive guide to the archaeology and excavation history of the site of Thorikos, and at the same time a presentation of ongoing work and a preview of new undertakings – a mission statement of sorts for the five-year fieldwork project currently under way (2018–2022). Growing out of a strictly Belgian initiative led by the universities of Ghent and Liège, the Thorikos Project has become a truly international research program, involving more than 40 scholars affiliated to 12 universities and other institutions, as well as countless students and volunteers. Rather than having one or two authors covering the many aspects of this complex site and its exploration, we are therefore happy to have the specialists themselves present their work in a multi-authored collection of texts, highlighting both the coherence of the project and the collaborative spirit that underlies it. The resulting book is intended for the general, interested public as well as for specialists.

The monograph written by the project's previous director Herman Mussche in 1998 remains indispensable for a more in-depth account of the archaeology of Thorikos before c. 1990, but previous general guides to the site date to the -70s and -80s of the last century and are both out of print and outdated at this point (Mussche 1974; 1978; 1986). In the years since, the site has been briefly treated in a guide to the Lavreotiki and the Lavrion Museum published by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture (Salliora-Oikononakou 2007) and in a book accompanying an exhibition held at the Numismatic Museum of Athens (Iossif, ed. 2010). A local publication has also been dedicated to the ancient theatre at Thorikos and its partial restoration (Dermatis and Manthos 2010). For other relevant and scholarly literature, the academic readership will find an extensive reference section at the end of this book.

We are sincerely grateful to the contributing authors for agreeing to participate in this venture so swiftly, and to Victor Martínez Hahn Müller for taking on the layout in the same enthusiastic manner. Many preliminary and comprehensive publications on both old and recent fieldwork are currently in advanced stages of preparation, and it is hoped that the spirit of rapid publication informing the present book will have a favourable influence on the scholarly venues as well.

Roald F. Docter and Maud Webster, 30 November 2018





*Archaeological survey on the southeast slopes of the Velatouri  
(photo: RFD).*

## **6. The Thorikos Survey Project (TSP)**

Between 2012 and 2015, a Ghent-Utrecht team conducted an intensive survey on the south slopes of the Velatouri, covering the area of the lower town of Thorikos as well as parts of the acropolis. In 2018, a team from Louvain-la-Neuve and Liège resumed the survey, extending it to the north, with the aim of completing the surface investigation of the whole hill. The project has several aims. The main goal is to connect the records of the various, dispersed excavations within a unified documentation to allow for a better understanding of the site's historical development and shifts in settlement pattern. Secondly, the comprehensive approach will shed light also on remains from understudied periods, most notably the Neolithic through Early Bronze Age and the post-classical period. Finally, the results are expected to increase our understanding of the socio-economic relationships between Thorikos and the wider region.





*Counting and checking finds in the field  
(photo: FvdE).*

The survey was carried out by field-walking. First, the pre-existing 50x50 m macrosquares were divided in four. Four students then walked each resulting mesosquare for 20 minutes, which enabled the team to scan the entire surface for finds and features, paying equal attention to each square while avoiding dangerous areas – shafts, cliffs, dense maquis etc. Aside from observing the artefact-scatter, close attention was paid to architectural remains, mine shafts and entrances, and rock graffiti. The 2012-15 field-campaigns were followed up by material processing campaigns until 2017, as students and professionals from several European universities joined to classify and document the 56,898 finds. These include metallurgical residues such as slags and litharge, lithics such as grinding stones and obsidian, and

ceramics. The pottery chronology is very extensive, spanning the Final Neolithic to the Early Modern period.

FvdE, AB, SyD, RFD

References: Nazou *et al.* 2018; van den Eijnde *et al.*, forthcoming.





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*SEG: Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, A. Chaniotis, T. Corsten, N. Papazarkadas and R.A. Tybout (current eds.), Leiden (<https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/supplementum-epigraphicum-graecum>).

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